



Name of Property: Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement
City, State: Kalaupapa, HI
Period of Significance: 1866-1969
NHL Criteria: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
NHL Themes:

- I: Peopling Places
 - 2. health, nutrition, and disease
 - 4. community and neighborhood
 - 5. ethnic homelands
 - 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization
- II: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
 - 2. reform movements
 - 3. religious institutions
- III: Expressing Cultural Values
 - 5. architecture, landscape architecture
- VI: Expanding Science and Technology
 - 3. scientific thought and theory
 - 4. effects on lifestyle and health

VIII: Changing Role of the United States in the World Community
2. expansionism and imperialism

Previous Recognition: NHL (1976) and National Historical Park (1980)

National Historic Context: This is a “special study.” Contexts are Leprosy and public health, 1866-1969; Euro-American expansion and the colonization of Hawai‘i, 1778-1959; Social justice and human rights movements concerning leprosy, 1866-1969.

NHL Significance:

- Kalaupapa is significant under Criterion 1 for its association with nationally and internationally important events in the history of leprosy (now also known as Hansen’s disease).¹ Established in 1866, the settlement initiated the modern public health practice of compulsory segregation of persons affected by leprosy at remote facilities. It represents the largest, longest operating leprosy institution located within the present United States. Kalaupapa’s story is complex, reflecting the interconnected histories of leprosy and public health, Euro-American overseas expansion and colonization efforts, and the expansion of missionary activities in the “age of high imperialism” from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The history of the approximately 8,000 people – mostly Native Hawaiians – forcibly separated from their families and exiled to Molokai also offers a compelling story of perseverance over adversity and injustice. The ability of the people of Kalaupapa to overcome trauma, build a viable Hawaiian community, and challenge stigma and racism speaks to their resilience and commitment to one another. As it developed under the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, the territorial government of Hawai‘i, and finally the State of Hawai‘i, Kalaupapa became a model for other isolation institutions established in the US and worldwide. It also represents an important origin point for ongoing social justice and human rights movements by and in support of persons affected by the disease.
- Kalaupapa is significant under Criterion 2 for its association with the lives of Father Damien DeVeuster (now Saint Damien of Molokai) and Mother Marianne Cope (now Saint Marianne Cope). Both played important roles in improving morale and living conditions at the settlement. They also drew international attention to leprosy and those affected by it. Criterion 2 is further applied in recognition of the contributions of the people of Kalaupapa, collectively and as individuals, to national and international efforts to ensure justice and human rights for people affected by leprosy.
- Kalaupapa is significant under Criterion 3 for its influence on national and international ideas concerning the rights of persons affected by leprosy. Efforts by the people of Kalaupapa and their supporters to resist the segregation policy, challenge stigma and

¹ In the 1940s, residents of the US National Leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana led a push to replace the term “leprosy” with “Hansen’s disease,” named for the Norwegian physician who discovered the leprosy bacterium in 1873. This update primarily uses the term “leprosy” as this was the common usage during most of the period of significance. Both terms continue to be used in the present.



racism, and build a viable community contributed to the reform of public health policies for leprosy in Hawai‘i, the US, and worldwide to better respect cultural preferences, dignity, and individual rights. Their actions prompted the ali‘i to enact measures to provide better care for persons affected by leprosy as a matter of justice for citizens of the Kingdom. They inspired and complemented the better-known work of Father Damien and Mother Marianne. They informed the decision by the State of Hawai‘i to revoke the segregation law in 1969. They also helped redefine the control and treatment of leprosy as a social justice issue and established Kalaupapa’s ongoing role in promoting human rights for those affected by the disease worldwide.

- Kalaupapa is significant under Criterion 4 as an exceptional, distinctive architectural entity incorporating institutional design elements for enforcing medical isolation with a variety of vernacular architectural forms and landscape characteristics common to Hawai‘i including dry stack stone masonry, meeting house and gothic style churches, and early twentieth century Hawaiian Plantation Style residences and community buildings. While certain extant architectural elements emphasize the isolation and stigma experienced by the residents, the overall design and layout is similar to that of a typical rural Hawaiian village. In part, this community structure is illustrative of an interest among health officials in Hawai‘i and the US by the early twentieth century to develop leprosy institutions more on a village or neighborhood model than as formal hospitalization facilities or sites of imprisonment. The people of Kalaupapa also took advantage of this condition of semi-autonomy to create additional architectural adaptations to meet their individual needs and preferences.
- Kalaupapa is significant under Criterion 6 for its exceptional value to the study of the origins and development of modern leprosaria in the US and internationally. Archeological research has yielded and may continue to yield information about the relationship between pre-contact and early post-contact Native Hawaiian use of the Kalaupapa peninsula and the area’s development as a leprosy settlement beginning in 1866. This includes information about the everyday lives of the people of Kalaupapa that may not be available in documentary materials. Future research at Kalaupapa may also help establish new links between pre- and post-contact Hawaiian archeology, contributing to new interpretations of Native Hawaiian resistance, adaptation, and accommodation to colonization and the introduction of western ideas and institutions.

Integrity:

- The settlement’s location on the still isolated and relatively undeveloped Kalaupapa peninsula remains unchanged from the period of significance. Although changes in the extent and types of vegetation have occurred, the setting remains largely intact. The topographic boundaries that define the peninsula’s isolation also remain unchanged from the time the settlement was founded.
- The design of the settlements at Kalawao and Kalaupapa is still evident in their layout and spatial organization. At Kalawao, the arrangement remains primarily linear along a single, existing road (Damien Road) with two churches, cemeteries, and a collection of archeological sites located along the route. Kalaupapa continues to be defined by the grid

pattern of streets and the clustered arrangement of treatment, residential, and community facilities dating to the period of significance. Hundreds of historic buildings, structures, and other resources including burial sites, roads and curbs, rock walls, gardens, art work, and monuments also remain, representing both original architectural designs and modifications to meet the needs of the community during the period of significance.

- The extant built elements and landscape features clearly display the workmanship and materials used during the historic period. This includes dry stacked stonework (represented primarily in walls and gates), the use of recycled building materials, low angle gable or hip roofs with overhanging eaves, post on stone or concrete pier foundations, vertical board siding, and single-wall wood-frame construction. Historic vegetation including ornamental plantings and fruit trees also continues to represent original stock and planting patterns in many areas, contributing to the integrity of setting, feeling, and association.
- The aspects of feeling and association are also retained through the setting, materials, workmanship, and design which together convey a sense of Kalaupapa as a place at once separate, cut off from Hawaiian society, and yet strongly linked to the biological, social, economic, and political changes that transformed Hawai‘i and the United States during the period of significance. Integrity of association, or the sense of a direct link between the property and the events and individuals who shaped it during the period of significance, is further retained through the lives of residents who continue to live at the settlement.

Owners of Property: State of Hawai‘i Department of Hawaiian Homelands; State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation; State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources; National Park Service; Roman Catholic Diocese in the State of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i Conference Foundation of the United Church of Christ; and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Acreage of Property: 15,645 (8,614 land, 7,031 marine)

Origins of Nomination: This update to the original 1976 NHL nomination was completed on behalf of Kalaupapa National Historical Park. It provides an expanded and up-to-date inventory of contributing and non-contributing resources, and a revised significance statement and discussion that reflects current historical interpretations and NHL guidelines. The period of significance is also revised to meet current NHL guidelines. The NHL boundary remains unchanged from the original nomination. Applied criteria are also unchanged, although the justifications are revised and expanded in accordance with current historical interpretations and NHL guidelines.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The update provides a more detailed description of the historic district, as well as an inventory of contributing and non-contributing resources with notes on their character-defining features and present condition. This information can aid the National Park Service and its partners in planning, resource management, and interpretation.



- The revised statement of significance offers an up-to-date historical interpretation that reflects current scholarship and documents the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa in shaping the settlement and influencing broad patterns of history. The language in the nomination is also updated to reflect current best practices for the use of terminology in historical writing on leprosy/ Hansen's disease.
- The update further emphasizes Kalaupapa's exceptional national and international significance and can help support its continued protection and value for education into the future.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None are known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 9, 2020):

- Benjamin Pykles, Historic Sites Curator, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – 8/31/2020

National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Determine if there is the potential for archeological research on institutional life.
- Add that since Caucasians viewed Hansen's Disease on the decline because it was declining in Europe, they would have viewed its rise in Hawaii in racist terms.
- Use the preferred name for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints throughout the nomination.
- Identified issues regarding certain design elements, certain place names, and supporting photographs which will be addressed in the revised nomination.

National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the acceptance of the NHL updated documentation for the Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement National Historic Landmark in Kalawao, Hawaii, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for his action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: